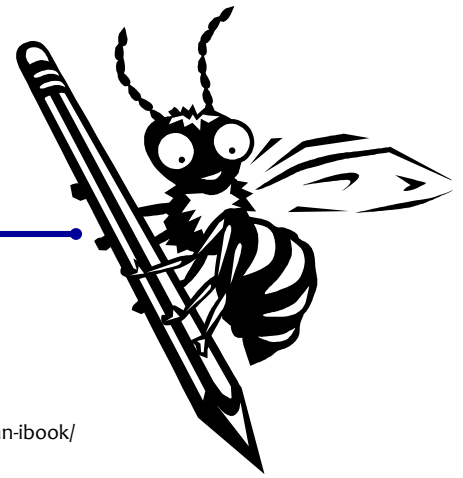


Youth Services Notes



May 10, 2010, Issue 18



Dear Authors, Your Next Book Should Be an App, Not an iBook

Written by Cody Brown and Posted on Tech Crunch

<http://techcrunch.com/2010/04/11/dear-authors-your-next-book-should-be-an-app-not-an-ibook/>

So much has been said in the past few weeks about how the iPad will change the book industry but in almost all of the tweets, posts, and articles I've come across a simple question seems to be completely dropped. Why do we have books in the first place? Paul Carr of TechCrunch published a post this morning (<http://techcrunch.com/2010/04/11/who-needs-catch-22-when-you-have-flight-control/>) that raised this question inadvertently. His argument went something like this:

- A) *The iPad is a better buy than the Kindle because it lets you do more than just read books.*
- B) *Books can't compete with other applications on the iPad. Partly because the screen is too bright but mostly because you will get distracted by games like Flight Control.*
- C) *Thus reading, as we know it, is dead.*

Carr, in some senses, is right. Reading has changed. What's not addressed is why this is a bad thing. Carr's argument is rooted in a distinction between serious readers and non-serious readers. His example involves someone reading only a few paragraphs of a *nytimes* article, then posting it on Twitter. Carr defines this reading as, "reading in the way that rubbing against women on the subway is sex."

His example is vivid but also flat out perverse. Carr is confusing length with quality, and more profoundly, he's confusing the ends with the means.

The mission of an author isn't to get you to 'read all the words', it's to communicate in the rawest sense of the word. Whether you're Jeff Jarvis or Dan Brown, you have an idea or a story and a book is a way to express it to the world.

If you, as an author, see the iPad as a place to 'publish' your next book, you are completely missing the point. What do you think would have happened if George Orwell had the iPad? Do you think he would have written for print then copy and pasted his story into the iBookstore? If this didn't work out well, do you think he would have complained that there aren't any serious-readers anymore? No. He would have looked at the medium, then blown our minds.

It's not a problem that the experience of reading a book 'cover to cover' on an iPad isn't that great as long as there are better ways to communicate on the device. On the iPad there are. What's challenging for authors at this point is the iPad enables so many different types of expression that it's literally overwhelming. Once you start thinking of your book as an app you run into all kinds of bizarre questions. Like, do I need to have all of my book accessible at any given time? Why not make it like a game so that in order to get to the next 'chapter' you need to pass a test? Does the content of the book even need to be created entirely by me? Can I leave some parts of it open to edit by those who buy it and read it? Do I need to charge \$9.99, or can I charge \$99.99? Start thinking about how each and everyone one of the iPad's features can be a tool for an author to more lucidly express whatever it is they want to express and you'll see that reading isn't 'dead', it's just getting more sophisticated.

There are literary techniques, there will be iPad techniques.

I'm 21, I can say with a lot of confidence that the 'books' that come to define my generation will be impossible to print. This is great.

Points of Interest

Summer Reading Program Resources

are available for downloading from the Library of Virginia's Virginia Public Library Extranet

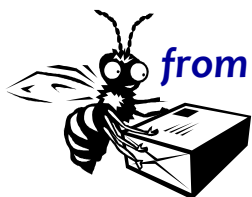
- ☒ Video Clips
- ☒ Radio announcement
- ☒ Music and lyrics
- ☒ Clip art

Busch Gardens

The bookmarks/discount passes have gone through the final proofing and should be ready to be mailed out to libraries soon. It is up to Busch Gardens as to the numbers of passes that will be sent to the libraries. I will keep you informed as I learn more.

Never say anything bad about a man until you've walked a mile in his shoes. By then he's a mile away, you've got his shoes, and you can say whatever you want to

From A Prairie Home Companion
Pretty Good Joke Book



from PubYac

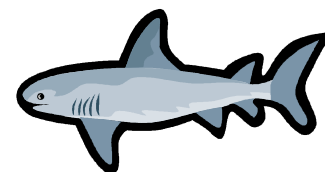
School Visits

Help! I have been asked to speak to 300 5th and 6th graders about the summer reading program. We're doing the Make a Splash theme. The kids will all be in one assembly. I usually speak to much younger kids -- toddlers thru 2nd grade, so I'm a little scared. Does anyone have any fun ideas for kids this age? Jokes, skits, whatever. I will have one other lady to help me. I need to fill about 30 minutes.

Lisa Boatman, Children's Librarian, White Co. Reg. Library System, Searcy, AR 501-268-2449

We're going to teach the kids the "Baby Shark" song (you can Google it) wearing loud Hawaiian shirts, flip flops, ball caps etc. My general advice is use popular culture references. Talk about books and characters that are cool and popular. DON'T do dumb skits or try to tell jokes. They will have none of it! Good luck.

As a children's librarian who's also needed to come up with a good activity for 5th grade school visits, I would add a suggestion to read to them, even if just 5 minutes from a cool, highly popular book...like the latest title in Rick Riordan's Lightning Thief series. I read to about fifty fifth-graders from that series for about 10 minutes a couple of years ago...and you could hear a pin drop in the school library room!



What if you come on stage wearing snorkeling gear and have the other lady chase you wearing a large shark fin or shark head? Then you could have a shark story (not too graphic!) either true or not.. You could include some fun shark facts (they can have 20,000 teeth in a lifetime! You are more likely to be struck by lightning than attacked by a shark! More people die from being attacked by pigs every year than being attacked by sharks!) If you want audience participation, ask the kids to tell you a shark fact they know, then use those facts to talk about your own facts or segueway into your story. One of the coolest stories that I've been sharing is about Bethany Hamilton who is a professional surfer, she was attacked by a shark when she was 13, had her arm taken off - but she started surfing again 2-3 months later and won a championship in the next year or so. She is about 20 now and is competing professionally as a surfer. You can go to her website: www.bethanyhamilton.com for the whole biography. I don't dwell too much on the gore and everything but I focus instead on the fact that she survived, she got right back out there, and that she is surfing today with only one arm. When kids seem a little anxious about this, I tell them how most sharks aren't trying to attack you, they are looking for a nice juicy fish - most sharks will bite a person by accident seeing the difference in color between your hands and arms in the water - or the bottom of your feet, then swim away when they realize it's not a fish. The rest of your time you can talk about all the fun stuff you will be doing at your summer reading program, who it's for, how to sign up, etc.

I'm bringing a spray bottle of water with me and I'm spraying them every time I say "water!" Not in the face, just up in the air. It's a light mist and the kids love it.

I always get nervous before I meet with the bigger kids, because I'm used to little ones, too. But every time, I have a great time and realize that I underestimated them. 5th and 6th grade is just before they get self conscious and think we're nerds!

We go to the schools every spring to talk about our summer reading program and booktalk about 7-8 titles. We see each grade for about half an hour. If you have more time, you can read from a couple of the books. I usually read a couple of poems and bring some cool nonfiction and show the pictures (especially if they're gross.)

If you have any Choose Your Own type books, you can read a section and let the kids decide what happens next.

Hate to sound cynical, but--if the kids have required summer reading, you might point out that they can use this as an opportunity to get prizes for something they have to do anyway--a bonus for doing homework. Of course, I'm not saying you shouldn't point out the other benefits as well.

Also, you might use those statistics on "summer brain drain" to point out how they will be smarter if they read over the summer.

I visit the 5th and 6th grade building every year to promote SRC but I have 3-4 classes at a time in the media center. I book talk about 10 books and talk about the SRC. I spend 2 mornings there and see over 800 kids, I get such a rush doing it. It also helps that the media specialist is very supportive.

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Upcoming Workshops



ALA 2010 Virtual Conference

Registration Now Open!

For information —

www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/registration/index.cfm#virtual

Dewey Decimal Class

July 1, 2010, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cumberland County Public Library

For information or to register go to <http://host5.evanced.info/lva/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

Sharing Success

Educating Professional Leaders in School and Public Youth Services Librarianship

The Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is awarding a limited number of two-year FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS to outstanding and diverse students who already hold a master's degree, have a strong interest in YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIANSHIP, and are admitted to the GSLIS Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) program for Fall 2010. (Deadline for application: June 15, 2010.)

GSLIS COURSES MAY BE TAKEN EITHER ON CAMPUS OR ONLINE via LEEP (the GSLIS distance education program). The Sharing Success CAS is a 40-CREDIT HOUR DEGREE PROGRAM open to professionals who hold a master's degree in library and information science or a closely related field and desire to update their skills, gain greater specialization in their professional training, or redirect their careers from one area to another. Students complete 32-credit hours of coursework with the remaining 8-credit hours devoted to an independent final project.

As part of their CAS work, Sharing Success students will complete a research project that relates to youth services and develop a continuing education workshop based on this research. They will present their research-in-progress or completed workshops to an audience of GSLIS students and faculty as well as to their target audience of youth services practitioners. During each of the two years that students receive tuition funding, Sharing Success students will also receive funding to support travel to professional conferences.

Sharing Success is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Up-to-date information about Sharing Success is available at <http://sharingsuccess.lis.illinois.edu/>

Application requirements and procedures are available at <http://www.lis.illinois.edu/academics/programs/cas-ss>

Questions? E-mail sharingsuccess@mail.lis.illinois.edu

Association for Library Service to Children's (ALSC) 2010 National Institute

Taking place in Atlanta on September 23 - 25, 2010 at the Emory Conference Center, the Institute touches on some of the most important topics in library service for children such as technology in the library, children's literature and programming & partnerships. Registration program details and prices are now available on the ALSC Web site. Early bird registration (ends 6/30) for an ALSC member is \$360; regular advance registration (7/1 - 8/25) is \$395 for an ALSC member, \$410 for an ALA member, \$435 for a nonmember, and \$320 for students. More pricing options, such as discounted group rates and single day passes, are also available on the ALSC Web site.

For more information please visit <http://www.ala.org/alscinstitute>.

Questions should be directed to ALSC Deputy Director Kirby Simmering at ksimmering@ala.org or 1-800-545-2433, ext. 2164.



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School Visits

They love mad libs Mad Libs are great, I use those every year. Book talking is good, show them the different kinds of things they can find at the library, from magazines to audiobooks. I've also read a few selections from the Oh Yuck! Encyclopedia of Gross Things, because that's just fun.

I always go in costume. Yes, it's a little on the silly side, but the kids will remember that you were there. Find some props that will connect them with the special programs you have planned for them. Think about what will make them excited about coming to your library this summer. Tell them what you have that makes your library different from their school library - do you have music? video games? dvd's? graphic novels? And don't forget to remind them about all the things we take for granted that people know about the public library. If you're enthusiastic without being totally over the top, you'll catch their attention. I have found it easiest if I have Table full of props that can prompt me to talk about things I want to highlight. A frog may segue into a story, a squirt gun could lead into prizes, a bicycle horn could be used several times for jokes, a rainstick could be a the promotion for special speaker...You could do many small talks alternating with your partner. The props help keep the kids attention and it really takes the pressure off by not having a script. Have fun. Here is the link for a video that a middle school put together.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6DgjiEYxzS> This might be fun to include in a school visit.

This is a fun little "science experiment" that will take 5-7 minutes. I used to do this with the older kids, it will grab their attention, and I think it pairs nicely with the "make a splash" theme. http://utah4h.org/files/publications/publication/pub__984708.pdf Basically, I would show the kids the Ziploc bag of water and ask them if they thought I could pierce it with a pencil without spilling a drop of water. They'd say, "no" and we'd banter back and forth over my magical abilities for a few rounds. Then I'd up the ante by asking for a teacher to volunteer to sit in a chair while I held the bag over their head and pierced the bag. I'd also make the teacher wear those giant sunglasses for "safety" and the kids just ate it up. If you follow the directions for the experiment, it really will not spill or leak water. It's been years since I've done this, but I do believe there is a limit to the number of pencils a bag will hold. The key is to practice this ahead of time over the sink until you have it down pat.

Tips: Carry the bags of water into the school in a plastic tub (dishwashing tub is good). Have the teacher hold the tub in their lap while you poke the bag. I've never had a bag spill, but you if you see a leak start to spring you can easily move it over the tub.

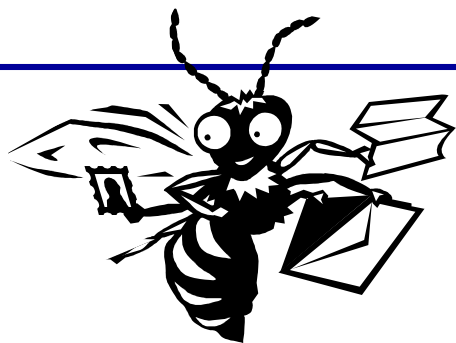
My assistant and I have devised a fun skit that we use when promoting our library's summer reading program. We read a lively story, usually a folktale, and then as we explain who the program works we use puppets. At my previous job I did some quick and simple book talks while explaining the program.

First off, I want to let you know that a bit of stage fright is normal and it will get your adrenaline pumping for your presentation. The most important thing to do before the big day is be prepared, use the days before to gather all your materials into easily managed totes or even a rolling suitcase. I love to include elements of audience participation, kids love to help, plus that means I'm no longer the only one up in front. Sometimes, I will have the audience try and guess the summer reading theme. Last year, we did a spy theme at our library system and I pulled together a couple trench coats, magnifying glasses, sunglasses, caution tape, etc. and had kids come up and don the various elements and had the rest of the crowd guess the theme. If I don't do a "guess the theme" program, then I arrive in costume myself. A bit of play acting is an ice breaker. My system creates an annual mini-movie on SRP that I show and then later leave the DVD with the media specialist to share with those that weren't able to be at the presentation (ie, field trip). I always take a prize board (visuals are a plus) and go over the various items and the reading points necessary to take these home. I emphasize the benefits of reading all summer and how they will wow their teachers next year.

The most fun, all through the summer I have kids come to the library that say "I saw you at my school!" Good luck, and remember relax and have fun!



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Notes from the Desk of the Children's and Youth Services Consultant

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Help with Book

I'm writing a chapter on children's librarians as middle managers for an upcoming management book. I've created a survey to give me some input on the issue.

Here's the link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3RX6BPG>

If anyone has trouble with it, they can email me

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School Visits

We do school visits like this each year, usually do 2 assemblies, K or PS - 3rd, and 4th—6th. We have been using the big standup board for the collaborative SRP (Splash!) this year -- so set up a table with that, or something that is representative of your theme, a few age appropriate books, and copies of whatever you will be handing out when kids sign up at your library. We talk about the SRP, theme, what special programs will be in our library, when we will start taking signups, etc -- we might have a joke or two, a poem, a cheer, something interactive. Tell a story, do book talks on great books that have come in, whatever fits in to your time. This is where we give a pitch for summer volunteers to the 6th graders as we let them begin as 7th graders in our library. 30 minutes goes pretty fast! If you go to Google & put in library cheer, go down to public library chants or whatever, down the page there is a cheer by Garrison Keillor that begins L-I-B-R-A-R-Y We have had wonderful success with that. Kids absolutely love it!



L-I-B-R-A-R-Y Cheer

by Garrison Keillor

Where do you go for the poetry? L-I-B-R-A-R-Y

Where do you go for the history? L-I-B-R-A-R-Y

Where do you go if you're old and shy?

Where do you go to learn how to fly? L-I-B-R-A-R-Y

That's how you spell it, Whatcha gonna tell it?

It's been in your town for a hundred years.

Let's give the library three big cheer:

Hip-hip-hurray!

Hip-hip-hurray!

Hip-hip-hurray!

More Library Cheers and chats may be found at

http://plinkit-virginia.hosting.enfoldsystems.com/ldnd_template/youth-services/program-ideas-and-resources/chants-and-songs-library.html